whether it is also a fact that the National Productivity Council which had made system study on the staffing norms of the EPFO has suggested adding of more than 31,000 people at the regional, sub-regional and accounts offices; and

if so, when the recommendations were made and what action has been taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) to (d) Presently, the EPFO is equipped with full-fledged facilitation centre, public relation officers and supporting staff to handle customer complaints particularly with regard to recoveries and pension funds. All field offices have been directed to conduct Bhavishya Nidhi Adalats every month to settle subscribers' complaints on the spot.

A study to develop workload norms was taken up by engaging the National Productivity Council (NPC) as Consultant. The NPC had submitted its report in March, 1999. However, the norms developed by it were not approved by the Executive Committee, Central Board of Trustees, Employees' Provident Fund. Another study was conducted by the Xavier Labour Research Institute, Jamshedpur which has since submitted a report on restructuring of EPFO.

Amendment in present child labour laws

1356. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

whether Government is intending to bring forth any law/change in the present labour laws to prevent child labour;

if so, what steps are being taken by Government to prevent child labour in the country; and

whether Government propose to bring any amendments to the Child Labour Prohibition and Regulation Act, 1986; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir. There are adequate provisions available under the existing Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 to prevent child labour.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Steps taken to increase wage share in industrial sector

1357. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

whether Government is aware that the wage share in the industrial sector has halved after 1980; and

if so, the details of steps taken to increase wage share in the industrial sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) On the basis of information collected under Annual Survey of Industries, the percentage share of wages/salaries to total cost of production is presently available for the period 1999-2000 to 2004-2005, which is given below:—

Year	Percentage
1999-2000	5.95
2000-2001	6.03
2001-2002	5.86
2002-2003	5.47
2003-2004	5.21
2004-2005	4.53

The wage rates as well as wage share depend upon various factors like demand and supply of labour, price level, paying capacity, productivity etc. With the progress of the economy, higher demand for industrial labour alongwith higher labour productivity, are likely to push up wage share in the industrial sector.

Survey of **BPL** people

tl358. SHRI LALU KISHORE CHATURVEDI: DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

whether people/families living under Below Poverty Line (BPL) have been surveyed in the recent results of National Sample Survey;

which basis were included in these results and what norms were prescribed for them:

the meaning of BPL and which year's prices form the basis for it;

the State-wise details of comparative number and percentage of BPL people in the year 1991, 2001 and at present; and

the meaning of BPL regarding 1991,2001 and at present and what are the details of its prescribed per capita monthly income?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYA KANTA PATIL): (a) and (b) People/families living Below Poverty Line (BPL) are not surveyed in the National Sample Surveys that is.conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. However, the Planning Commission estimates the percentage of persons living below the poverty line, from the data on distribution of persons by expenditure groups of the population yielding from the National Sample Survey data on household consumption expenditure of the NSSO and an exogenously determined poverty line.

The percentage of people living below the poverty line (BPL) in the total population are those who fail to attain a minimum required level of consumption of food and non-food items defined by the poverty line. The poverty line was originally estimated at 1973-74 prices. For later years, these are updated for price changes.

and (e) The Planning Commission estimates the number and percentage of population living below the poverty line at the national and State level from the large sample survey on household consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation

t Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.